(c) the progress made therein so far; and

(d) whether this is likely to be completed the next rainy season to avert and avoid flooding of the airport and if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government has sanctioned the upgradation of Visakhapatanam Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 191.52 crores, out of which Rs. 141.52 crore is being funded by the Ministry of Defence and Rs. 25 crore by the Airport Authority of India and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The estimated cost of new runway, apron taxi track and isolation bay is Rs. 90.80 crore. The new terminal building is not a part of this project.

(c) 70% of the total work package has been completed as on 31.3.2006.

(d) the project is likely to be completed as scheduled by December 2006. The flood control measures for the airport are not part of the project and are to be taken by the State Government.

Joint Development of Futuristic Weapon System With USA

2597. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of the proposal from USA in regard to Jointly developing futuristic weapon system indicating details of its term of reference?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): There is no proposal from USA for Joint Development of "Futuristic Weapon System"

Vacation of spectrum used by Defence

2598. Dr. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to vacate 45 MHZ of spectrum being used by Defence for use of cellular operators;

(b) if so, the total cost of release of spectrum for civil use; and

(c) the manner in which the communication needs of the Defence will be met?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The decision to vacate spectrum for cellular operator is made on a case to case basis after ensuring that the Defence requirements are fully met and are not affected adversely.

Permission to IAF Pilots to go on deputation

2599. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow Air Force Pilots to go on deputation in Government run airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what will be the period of deputation indicating whether it will be on a rotational basis;

(d) how many pilots left the Indian Air Force between the period 2002 and 2005 indicating the total strength of pilots/vacancies lying vacant at present; and

(e) whether Government have examined that there would not be any shortage of IAF Pilots after going on deputation to Government Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) and (e) Yes, Sir. The requests received for deputation to various Government organizations including state owned Airlines are considered individually on merits after ensuring that such deputations do not affect the operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

(d) The number of pilots who have proceeded on deputation to various Government organizations during the years 2002-2005 is 143. The authorized strength of pilots in the Indian Air Force is 3269 and the actual current strength is 3015. The number of posts lying vacant at present is 254.

Attack on fellow colleagues by soldiers

2600. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to stress, fatigue, and anxiety, soldiers are turning their guns towards their colleagues;